

REMARKS

In the March 21, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 8, rejected claims 2, 8 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Application Publication 2003/0086637 to Berris, et al. The Examiner further indicated that claims 16-18 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants have canceled claims 2, 7 and 9 and have amended the remaining claims to correct the errors underlying the Examiner's § 112 rejections and to add into all of the claims elements of the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner in original claim 16. In particular, each pending claim now includes the providing of a first index level, a second index level and a pre-set number and various recitations regarding the buckets. Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

Applicant advises the Examiner that Applicant has submitted an information disclosure statement with this amendment and response and respectfully requests consideration of the art cited therein.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number

below. If any fees are due in connection with this application, including those for any necessary extension of time, such fees may be charged to PTO Deposit Account 50-2837.

Respectfully submitted,

24IP LAW GROUP USA, PLLC

By: 

Timothy R. DeWitt
Registration No. 35,857

24IP Law Group USA, PLLC
12 E. Lake Dr.
Annapolis, MD 21403

Tel: 703-340-1686
Fax: 703-340-1687

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